Crowned Dens Syndrome

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A 71-year-old woman was admitted to hospital with neck pain, right omalgia and right gonalgia. Physical examination showed tenderness of the upper neck, right shoulder joint and right knee joint, but no swelling of the right shoulder joint or right knee joint. Laboratory examination revealed elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and white blood cells (WBC). Computed tomography (CT) of the cervical spine confirmed calcification around the dens of the atlas (Picture 1). A three-dimensional reconstruction obtained from data of a plain CT showed calcification of the posterior side of the dens (Picture 2). The patient received a diagnosis of crowned dens syndrome. Anti-inflammation therapy was started with a standard non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug; her neck pain disappeared and serum inflammation level decreased within a week.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).